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NOTES FROM FBI FILES ON
MORRIS BLOCK AND MOLLIE BLOCK

044935

February 28, 1960
(continued)

The Soviet Red Cross paid expenses.

June 1960

Joanna became ill with a nervous disorder and required hospitalization.

Mollie Block requested employment and was assigned as a typist-translator for the Soviet Publishing Office in Moscow.

Mollie Block was provided a one room apartment.

Vladimir Vasilev wanted her to attend a school in preparation for employment as a Radio Moscow commentator to North Africa - salary 1500 rubles, but Mollie Block refused the assignment.

August 1960

Morris Block came to Moscow and stated that he wanted to remain with his family. The Soviets insisted he return to Odessa.

October 1960

Morris and Mollie Block returned to Odessa, both obtaining their previous jobs.

Mollie stated that she definitely wanted to return to the United States.

May 1961

Joanna Block returned from Moscow to Odessa.

March 1962

After many visits to the Soviet authorities permission was granted to the Blocks to visit the American Embassy in Moscow.

The United States authorities were willing to renew her passport for immediate and direct return to the U.S. and issue Morris Block a Certificate of Identity to accomplish the same; the Soviet authorities refused to grant the exit visas and forced them to return to Odessa.

The Blocks were subsequently approached on three occasions to renounce their U. S. citizenship and become Soviet citizens. They refused to do so.

Early 1964

Morris Block became annoyed at the Soviet loud speaker broadcasting propaganda at

his place of employment and disconnected it.

He was severely punished by several young Soviet workers and denounced as a hooligan.

The Soviets would not grant exit visas or permission to visit Moscow during this period.

February 28, 1964

A correspondent for THE NEW YORK TIMES was visiting Odessa. Mollie Block approached this Henry Tanner and gave him an account of their difficulties.

April 1964

An article about the Soviet treatment of the Blocks appeared in THE NEW YORK TIMES.

The Soviets began harassing the Blocks.

June 10, 1964

The Blocks were expelled from the U.S.S.R. on the charge that Morris Block was guilty of acts of hooliganism and Mollie Block was guilty of handing out anti-Soviet propaganda to foreign students at the Polytechnic Institute.

Mollie and Morris Block had been members of the Communist Party in the United States for a number of years before their defection. However, they had no contact with the Soviets prior to their defection.

The Blocks had no knowing contact with the KGB. Mollie Block believed they would be of interest to the KGB, but was not aware of any such interest. Their only contact with Soviet officials was with Vladimir Vasilev and his replacement when occupied elsewhere. The name of the replacement is unknown but he is described as a blond man, 30 years of age, five feet six inches, 170-180 pounds, stocky build. Subsequently, he was sent to the Crimea resort area to recover from an illness. Vladimir Vasilev's questions cannot be remembered with the exception of how to obtain an illegal U. S. passport, or one in false identity (which Morris Block had done).